Washington D C 20505

2 December 1987

The Honorable William J. Roth, Jr.
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.   20510

Dear Senator Roth:

    I welcome the opportunity to provide my perspective on the net
impact of the amendment you introduced to H.R. 1777, The Foreign
Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1988. The amendment
would apply the same travel restrictions to Eastern Bloc and Cuban
missions in the United States as are applied to Soviet missions.

    As I stated during my confirmation hearing on 8 April 1987,
I certainly do support the intent of the amendment. We must take
positive actions to prevent hostile intelligence services from
gaining access to sensitive information which would be detrimental
to our national interests.

    As Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I viewed
all efforts to restrict travel of diplomats from Eastern Bloc
countries and Cuba assigned to the United States to be helpful.
From that perspective, this amendment will certainly enhance the
Bureau's ability to monitor and keep track of these diplomats,
thereby limiting their intelligence collection activities.

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The national interests are best served by using all means
available to counter the formidable intelligence collection
capability of all hostile intelligence services assigned to the
United States. Placing travel restrictions on Eastern Bloc and
Cuban diplomats assigned to this country helps to accomplish this

25X1   objective.

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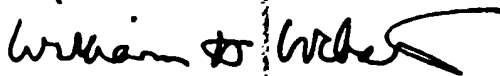25X1   The waiver provision contained in the

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amendment addresses this concern over retaliation, and provides
some flexibility and leverage to impose travel restrictions
selectively. However, to avoid involving the President in the
waiver process we believe the Secretary of State, after
consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence and the
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, should be
authorized to grant the waiver. Language to this effect should be
substituted in the appropriate section of the Bill.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

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